

**Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A hair styling tool comprising:

a handle portion having a pair of pivotally connected arms, each arm having a hair contacting element, and

a heater within at least one of said pivotally connected arms;

wherein at least one of said hair contacting elements with has one or more apertures therein, wherein said one or more apertures are in the form of perforated grooves, and wherein said one or more apertures are in communication with one or more vents of the hair styling tool to vent moisture, heat and/or pressure.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Original) The hair styling tool of claim 1, wherein said arms are pivotally connected at a proximal end thereof.

4. (Original) The hair styling tool of claim 1, wherein said hair contacting element is operatively located at a distal end thereof.

5. (Original) The hair styling tool of claim 1, wherein said hair contacting element is a heat conductive plate and thermally interactive with the hair styling tool to effectively apply heat to selected portions of hair as desired.

6. (Original) The hair styling tool of claim 1, wherein said hair contacting element has a hair contacting surface.

7. (Original) The hair styling tool of claim 6, wherein said hair contacting surface is at least substantially planar.

8. (Original) The hair styling tool of claim 6, wherein said hair contacting surface is corrugated.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Original) The hair styling tool of claim 9, wherein said one or more vents are in said distal end of said arms.

11. (Currently amended) A hair contacting element of a hair styling tool comprising:

a heatable hair contacting surface having a plurality of recessed apertures,

wherein said plurality of recessed apertures are in communication with a corresponding number of vents in said hair styling tool to vent moisture, heat and/or pressure.

12. (Original) The hair contacting element of claim 11, further comprising a groove for connection to a tongue of said hair styling tool.

13. (Original) The hair contacting element of claim 12, wherein said groove is thermally interactive with said hair styling tool so that heat generated by said hair styling tool can be selectively transferred to said heatable hair contacting surface via said tongue.

14. (Original) The hair contacting element of claim 11, wherein said heatable hair contacting surface is substantially planer.

15. (Original) The hair contacting element of claim 11, wherein said plurality of recessed apertures and said vents of said hair styling tool align with each other.

16. (Original) The hair contacting element of claim 11, wherein said plurality of recessed apertures are located throughout said heatable hair contacting surface in a random manner.

17. (Original) The hair contacting element of claim 11, wherein said plurality of recessed apertures are located in a predefined pattern.

18. (Original) The hair contacting element of claim 11, wherein said heatable hair contacting surface is corrugated.

19. (Original) The hair contacting element of claim 18,

wherein said plurality of recessed apertures and said vents of said hair styling tool align with each other.

20. (Original) The hair contacting element of claim 18, wherein said plurality of recessed apertures are located in a predefined pattern.

21. (New) A hair styling tool comprising:

a handle portion having a pair of pivotally connected arms, each arm having a hair contacting element;

a heater within at least one of said pivotally connected arms; and

one or more apertures in at least one of said hair contacting elements and one or more apertures in at least one additional surface of said pivotally connected arms, wherein said apertures are adapted to vent moisture, heat and/or pressure.